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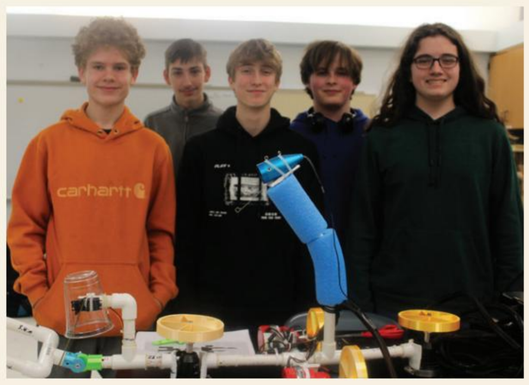

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SERVING UP SMILES…
GUESTS ‘BITE INTO A LEGEND’ FOR REDAMAK’S OPENING DAY

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PHOTO OF DEBRA ROBERTSON SERVING GUESTS FOR HER 43RD SEASON BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Berrien County Health Department recommends being up to date on measles vaccination

TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY?

If you're planning an international trip, the Berrien County Health Department strongly recommends verifying all members of your group, including young children, are up to date on their measles vaccinations.

In February, Michigan experienced its first case of measles since 2019 when an Oakland County child tested positive for measles after an overseas trip. Two additional unrelated cases have since been diagnosed, heightening the possibility of community spread.

"The most common way for measles to show up here in our community is through an imported case from residents who travel internationally but are not up to date on the measles vaccine," said Dr. Rex Cabaltica, BCHD medical director. "As measles cases rise in Michigan, we strongly encourage being vaccinated against this highly transmissible disease.

"If parents and guardians are not sure of their own or their children's vaccination status, BCHD or their primary care provider can help them access their records to verify which vaccines they may need. The measles vaccine is 93% effective at preventing measles after a single shot and 97% effective after the second shot."

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that is spread by direct person-to-person contact and through the air. The virus can live for up to two hours in the air where the infected person was present.

Symptoms of measles usually begin seven to 14 days after exposure but can appear up to 21 days after exposure and may include:

- High fever.
- Cough.
- Runny nose.
- Conjunctivitis, or red, watery eyes.
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin.
- A rash that is red, raised and blotchy. It usually starts on the face and spreads to the chest, arms and legs three to five days after symptoms begin.

If symptoms develop, residents are urged not to visit their doctor or emergency room unless they have called ahead so facilities can take precautions to prevent exposure to other individuals.

Cabaltica noted that measles is most likely to spread in segments of the community who are unvaccinated. In the largest recent outbreak over the past two decades involving 1,249 cases during 2019, 75% of these cases occurred in the state of New York and were concentrated among a significant segment of the community that was close-knit and unvaccinating. Eighty-six percent of all cases that year involved those who were either unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status against measles.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more information on measles on its website.

Berrien County residents can call the Health Department at 269-926-7121 for help checking on vaccination status.

— STAFF REPORTS

SPRING CREEK SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO 'HELP OUR HORSES HELP KIDS'

Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation is recruiting volunteers and will hold a New Volunteer Training from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 6.

Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides an equine-assisted learning program on horse behavior, how to care for a horse and how to ride to local, under-resourced children, adults and families. While working with horses, participants build critical life skills, such as confidence, responsibility, teamwork and empathy for animals.

Those who are interested in having fun while helping horses help kids can join the foundation as a volunteer to make a difference in the lives of others. Volunteers are trained to work with children while they learn to groom, tack and ride a horse. Children attend three-hour classes on Saturdays in the spring and fall.

Volunteers must be adults with horse experience. Currently, Spring Creek is gearing up for spring classes.

One must register to attend. To register, text Alison at 269-756-3894 or email her at info@springcreekhorseshelp.org. Those with questions regarding volunteer opportunities should contact the foundation. To learn more about volunteering for Spring Creek Horses Help Foundation, visit www.springcreekhorseshelp.org/be-a-volunteer.

Spring Creek Equestrian Center is located at 16771 Pardee Road in Three Oaks. — STAFF REPORTS

Accept your Fates and their reasoning every time then happiness is likely. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Red Arrow road diet begins Monday

BY STAN MADDUX

Work is scheduled to begin Monday, March 18, on downsizing another stretch of Red Arrow Highway closer to New Buffalo.

The 1.9 mile stretch of four lane highway will be reduced to one travel lane in each direction, with a middle lane strictly for left hand turns from U.S. 12 to Community Hall Road.

The same work occurred in 2020 on a 1.2 mile stretch of Red Arrow Highway in Union Pier.

During a meeting at New Buffalo Township Hall Monday, March 11, to go over the project, Berrien County Road Department Engineering Supervisor Kevin Stack said the portion of highway that has already been narrowed has worked as designed to improve safety in areas like slowing down traffic and reducing the odds of a rear end collision.

He said another reason for the work at both locations is to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

A trail running beside the soon to be narrowed highway will run beside one of the travel lanes, like it does along the previous stretch of lane reduced road.

A four foot high barrier wall will also be constructed between the trail and highway to keep vehicles from endangering bicyclists and people on foot using the path.

Stack said there's been a secondary benefit of more drivers on the already lane reduced stretch of highway feeling safer to stop and patronize businesses.

"It's becoming a destination point so people are wanting to go there. We want you to go slower through that town for safety mainly but then also welcome to Berrien County. Enjoy what we have to offer," he said.

Stack said Red Arrow Highway was originally two lanes when constructed in the 1920s then widened to four lanes about 20 years later.

Currently, Stack said only about 4,500 vehicles a day travel the stretch from New Buffalo to Union Pier.

Usage dropped significantly following the construction in the 1960s of Interstate 94, which handles more than 50,000 vehicles a day in that same area.

Stack said Red Arrow Highway will be closed during the initial phase of the construction, which will include asphalt removal, repairs to the concrete base of the road and culvert replacement.

The road will reopen with one lane in each direction on May 1.

Stack said substantial completion of the work is scheduled for Aug. 31, with final completion set for Nov. 1.

Rhonda Sobecki, co-owner of Skips Restaurant and Catering, said she welcomes the reduction in travel lanes, especially the addition of a continuous left hand turning lane, to make traveling that stretch of road less dangerous.

She also asked if the project will improve drainage after a storm in the restaurant parking lot, which she described as looking like it has a river flowing through it after a heavy rain.

"We have paid ourselves to fix it but nothing has worked," she said.

Stack said the highway should drain much less into the parking lot from the upcoming changes.

If not for inflation, he said the $3.6 million project would cost about half as much if construction materials were at prices from three years ago.

Stack said the hope is to begin work on reducing the highway from four lanes to two lanes on a 2.9 mile stretch from Berrien Street to Lakeshore Road sometime this summer or fall.

Beware, so long as you live, of judging men by their outward appearance.
— Jean de La Fontaine

Children invited to Story Hour in New Troy

Story hour at the New Troy Community Center is just one of many pieces of the puzzle that makes the center a success.

Story hour is a learning experience for the children. This is achieved through stories, games, discussions, singing, art projects, physical activities, and socializing. Children are encouraged to participate, be a good listener, share, and take turns. There is a lot of interactive play.

Each week, children and parents look forward to the Wiggles and Giggles Story hour, which has enriched the lives of many in the community. Miss Ollie, a former kindergarten teacher, makes sure all the kids have fun, and she'd love to welcome your child to her fun weekly gathering.

Story Hour is held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, and is open to all preschoolers, 3 years or older. A parent or guardian is required to remain with the child.

The New Troy Community Center is located at 13372 California Road in New Troy. FONT is a nonprofit 501(c)3 committed to offering a welcoming space to all.

For more information, contact the center at 269-426-3909 or friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.org. — STAFF REPORTS

A view of Lakeside Road (Pier Street on the right) heading toward Red Arrow Highway

Public given update on Lakeside Road Development Project

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Improvements to Lakeside Road, Pier Road and West East Road in Chikaming Township may begin sometime in mid to late summer and go into the fall, Kevin Stack, engineering supervisor at the Berrien County Road Department, said at a public hearing Thursday, March 7, at Chikaming Township Center.

Last November, Stack said that residents and business owners had been shown a "30% conceptual design" on the project.

"We had an idea of what was wanted down here and what was needed, we put that pen on paper and came to you and said, 'This is what we've got - we know we have a drainage issue, we know we have a road surface issue' and the township wanted to address some streetscape items so we brought in some streetscape features of lighting, benches and things like that to see what everyone's feel was," he said.

After that meeting, a certain type of lighting and style was voted on. A couple more options were also presented on a survey that was presented at the March 7 meeting.

With regards to the grade issue at the intersection of East and Lakeside roads, Stack said that, in order for a sidewalk to work, two maple trees will need to be removed due to the potential of the root system that has spread out into the road being harmed once the digging into the road begins.

No parking will exist between East Street and Pier Street due to a two-and-half foot grade change that occurs once you arrive at that intersection.

Stack said they've been working with the drain commissioner, as they're "tying into his system clear down to the intersection of Lakeshore and Lakeside." Stack said that the current drainage running on the west side of the road and underneath a lot of landscaping will be left alone; however, a new system that will be designed to withstand storm events will be put in.

The project's main focus will be Lakeside, between East Road and Red Arrow Highway, where streetscape elements, such as lights and a couple benches, will be put in.

"Outside of there, we do show the rest of Lakeside out to Lakeshore just to show you how that's going to run but you won't see really much of East or Pier just because we're going to fix the asphalt - there's going to be some curbing that goes in at the intersections but everything else is just making the road smooth and a little wider," he said, adding that there'll be 11-12-foot lanes on each side.

A potential gray tone shoulder parking area will be located at the end, although not the "very end," of Pier Street, Stack said.

At the intersection of Pier and Lakeside, there'll be a large green space. Grass may be put in there; however, after that, Stack said the road department will be working with the township on what else could go into the space.

The handful of lights on Lakeside Road will provide aesthetics and ambient lighting.

After the survey has been filled out with regards to the desired lighting by meeting attendees, Stack said the project will be ready to go out to bid.

The project will be funded through township and road department funds.

Throughout construction, Stack said that access to businesses and homes will be maintained at all times.

Stack said it's hoped that the project's timeline will align with the Red Arrow project.

"That's been the goal from the beginning - we are still pushing, right now, this Red Arrow project out in front of the Lakeside area from Berrien Street all the way up here to Cherry Beach, Lakeshore area," he said.

Stack said he doesn't know the schedule yet regarding the two culverts that will be replaced during that Red Arrow project; however, it'll take place after July 4.

Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte said that further investigation will take place with regards to working with Lakeside business owners to find some additional parallel parking spots.

He added that the "safety of pedestrians and the public and roadways" will be taken into consideration.

Stack said that a project further down Red Arrow in New Buffalo Township is slated to begin Monday, March 18 (see page 4).

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo Area Schools is awarded MACUL Innovative District Award

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

As a reward for its innovative learning opportunities, New Buffalo Area Schools has been awarded the 2024 MACUL (Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning) Innovative District Award.

At the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education's Monday, March 11, meeting, board member Denise Churchill read from an email from Mark Smith, executive director of MCUL, which stated that "the district has focused on maker centered learning, design thinking, STEAM education and computer science."

New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said that only one school district in the state receives the award per year.

"It's all that emphasis we've been placing on the STEAM - this is the first year we've had K-12 STEAM education and we revamped the media center this summer to make sure it shows that we support that by giving spaces for the students to collaborate and do things and over here we have the SMART Lab and across the street we have the the STEAM building, where engineering can be done," he said.

Board members approved the hiring of Angela Smith in the position of secondary science teacher for the 2024-2025 school year, pending background check.

Currently, Smith is employed at the New Prairie United School Corporation, where she's taught for many years. She's also taught at the former St. Mary of the Lake Catholic School in New Buffalo.

Bowen said that Smith will be filling the vacancy that opened up this year for that position, spending some time teaching middle along with high school, specifically AP Biology and middle school physical science, and will be doing some extracurriculars.

Board members approved the updated high school course descriptions for next school year. Bowen said that new courses that will be offered include a kind of ESL English class, a forensics course, a course that will combine art and engineering and include building sets for the plays, College Sociology and Film Studies.

Board members approved Arnt Asphalt doing some surfacing and paving for the district in the amount of $142,500. The asphalt will be put in and restriping will be done the area as one enters in from the middle/high school and the turnaround along with the middle school parking lot.

A proposal from PayJay, Inc.for the complete reconstruction of the driveway entrance in the amount of $48,400 was also approved. Bowen said the quote includes excavating all the existing asphalt and removing the current base that's there and installing some drainage in there. A brand new base will then be put in and asphalt will be placed on top of it.

The purchase of New Buffalo Elementary cafeteria tables for $64,382.55 was approved.

With regards to the elementary school construction project, Bowen said that all the kitchen equipment has been sold and removed from the school. Students are currently being served breakfast, lunch and snacks in the gym. Work has picked up at the site, with 19 construction workers being onsite at one point and masons installing block walls inside of the addition for the Bison Afterschool Enrichment (BASE) office and the servery line.

With regards to the district's Planned Unit Development, the Bison Preserve, that's being proposed to go in across from the elementary school, Bowen said the district is hoping to come to an agreement with the developer later this month. A meeting was scheduled to finalize the contract sometime this week. Bowen hopes that, once there's a signed agreement with the developer, after spring break, members of the public will be able to see the project's proposal and discuss it.

Board members renewed the cooperative swimming program for the 2024 season.

Board members heard the following coaches have been hired: head baseball coach, Adam Lijewski and assistant coach, Chris Thun; head golf coach, Ed Fidler; head girls soccer coach, Erik Beers; head high school track coach, Nate Jones and assistant coaches, Marty McGinn and Ashley Floraday and middle school track, Vance Price and Lisa Knoll.

CHURCH OF THE MEDIATOR RECIPIENT OF SCHOOL OF AMERICAN MUSIC GRANT

Recently, the Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Harbert has received a $21,000 grant from Garth Taylor and the School of American Music (SAM) in Three Oaks.

The grant will be used to establish a Music and Arts Endowment Fund. The income from the fund will be available to support the Music and Arts programs at the Church of the Mediator.

"We are grateful to Garth Taylor and the Music School for establishing this Fund to help in the sustainability of our Arts of Mediator ministry. We welcome additional donations to this Fund," a church press release stated.

Founded by Taylor in 2012, the School of American Musicregularly holds Free Family Concerts and student recitals at Mediator. The next concert, "Dueling Divas," is Sunday, March 17.

SAM is dedicated to providing education, performance, and audience opportunities in music and the related arts in the Southwest Michigan area.

The school features lessons that are taught by highly qualified instructors who are also performing musicians. Most are available for children and adults at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of proficiency, and scholarships are available for students of all ages. Twice-yearly recitals and other performance opportunities are embedded in our pedagogy. Concerts range from world-class performances, to sing-alongs, to outdoor music festivals.

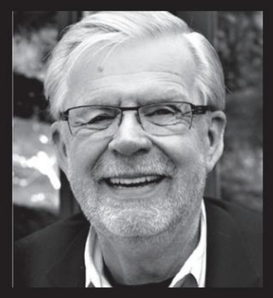
To ensure continued contributions to Harbor Country, SAM has launched the Future Fund campaign to establish an endowment. To support the campaign, the school plans paid intimate house concerts and themed productions. SAM is volunteer-board managed and supported.

To contribute to the fund, visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. All donations are matched dollar for dollar by the Michiana Arts Foundation. — STAFF REPORTS

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



As I sit down to write this week's column, only 22 days remain before baseball's 2024 season officially gets under way.

Many years have passed since I was a kid and each league (American and National) only had eight teams. Nowadays, each league has 15 teams, so the playoffs have expanded.

When I was growing up, only two teams reached the playoffs by winning the pennant in their respective leagues while now 12 teams participate in the playoffs. I believe that my favorite team only finished with more wins than losses once in my life before I went to college but that has also changed.

Back in the 1950's and 1960's, I read the sports section of the newspaper religiously and knew almost every player in the league and their statistics. Because I was a Cubs fan growing up on the south side, and because the go-go White Sox were very good, I developed a dislike for them that diminished over time.

Let's fast forward a few decades to today. I now like the White Sox, but still not nearly as much as the Cubs. The Cubs are considered to be strong playoff contenders while the Sox are rebuilding.

I'm still reading about sports, but the amount of players has almost doubled and the amount of statistics that are considered relevant has grown at an unbelievable pace. Statistics that were considered important in the past have lost their value.

They now track each pitch for speed, location, etc. Some managers do everything by the book, but the best ones still use their gut instincts in addition to statistics to get the best out of their teams.

Speaking of the best managers, the Cubs hired Craig Counsell during the off-season and Craig is widely considered one of the best in baseball.

Personally, I really liked David Ross who has managed the team for the last few seasons, but I like Counsell too and am looking forward to watching him work his magic. After getting Cody Bellinger back in the fold, the Cubs, and their fans, are extremely optimistic.

My expectations are also high, and I'm looking forward to seeing a few of the rookies who will undoubtedly make their way to the major leagues this season and next. The Cubs have done a really good job through drafting and trades in building up their farm system and it looks like they could be a playoff team for quite a while.

So on April 1, which is opening day for the Cubs and should be a national holiday, the Cubs will start a three game series with the Colorado Rockies followed by a three game series with the Los Angeles Dodgers, all at Wrigley Field.

Six months later, on September 29, the regular season will end and hopefully both Chicago teams can continue playing in the playoffs.

Fridtjof Nansen said, "The difficult is what takes a little time: the impossible is what takes a little longer."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Bears choose staying in Chicago over La Porte

BY STAN MADDUX

Dreams of the Chicago Bears relocating to the City of La Porte appear to be over.

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody said what might seemed like a one in a million chance of landing the Bears was worth the effort.

"You're only in the game if you're in there pitching, so we'll continue to have big ideas," he said.

The Bears organization recently announced plans to have a domed stadium built just south of their current home, which is Soldier Field.

There was considerable speculation the Bears would move outside Chicago to the suburb of Arlington Heights, where the organization purchased more than 300 acres of land just over a year ago.

However, according to ESPN, the Bears are willing to contribute $2 billion toward construction of a publicly owned domed stadium just a short walk from Soldier Field, the smallest stadium in the NFL.

Late last year, Dermody and La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Executive Bert Cook reached out to the Bears about being considered for the site of their new stadium.

Cook said he and Dermody spoke to Bears representatives on the phone and through emails about the benefits of moving to La Porte.

"We just talked about our community and what we have to offer," Cook said.

Cook said no specific locations for a stadium were shared because the city wanted to know if the Bears were interested before taking that next step.

Many people believe the only location for such a large venue in La Porte would be along the Indiana Toll Road for easy access in an area the city is close to annexing.

Cook said the odds of attracting the Bears might have been just as long as winning a major lottery drawing.

It didn't hurt to give it a shot, though.

"You never know what is possible until you try. At the end of the day, what is the worst that someone can say? No, we're not interested then we're no worse off than we are today," he said.

A man can be himself only so long as he is alone; and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom; for it is only when he is alone that he is really free. *— Arthur Schopenhauer*

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‘Larger than life’ late mayor fondly remembered

BY STAN MADDUX

There’s never been a mayor in La Porte, perhaps, quite like Elmo Gonzalez.

He was known during his years at City Hall from 1988 through 1995 for his work ethic and colorful, warm personality.

He is also considered the spring board for a number of major projects still paying dividends for the city like development of the Thomas Rose Industrial Park.

Gonzalez died Friday, March 8.

He was 98.

Gonzalez didn’t retire from the workforce until the age of 85 when he was director of customer service for the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Prior to his years as mayor, Gonzalez served on the New Buffalo School Board and at some point was board president, according to his obituary.

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody said he didn’t know Gonzalez but learned a lot about him from listening to others familiar with him over the years.

“I heard so many different stories about how he was larger than life,” he said.

Former mayor Kathy Chroback described him as “very kind, very jolly, very happy. A happy guy.”

Chroback served the first four of her eight years on the city council during Gonzalez’s second term as mayor.

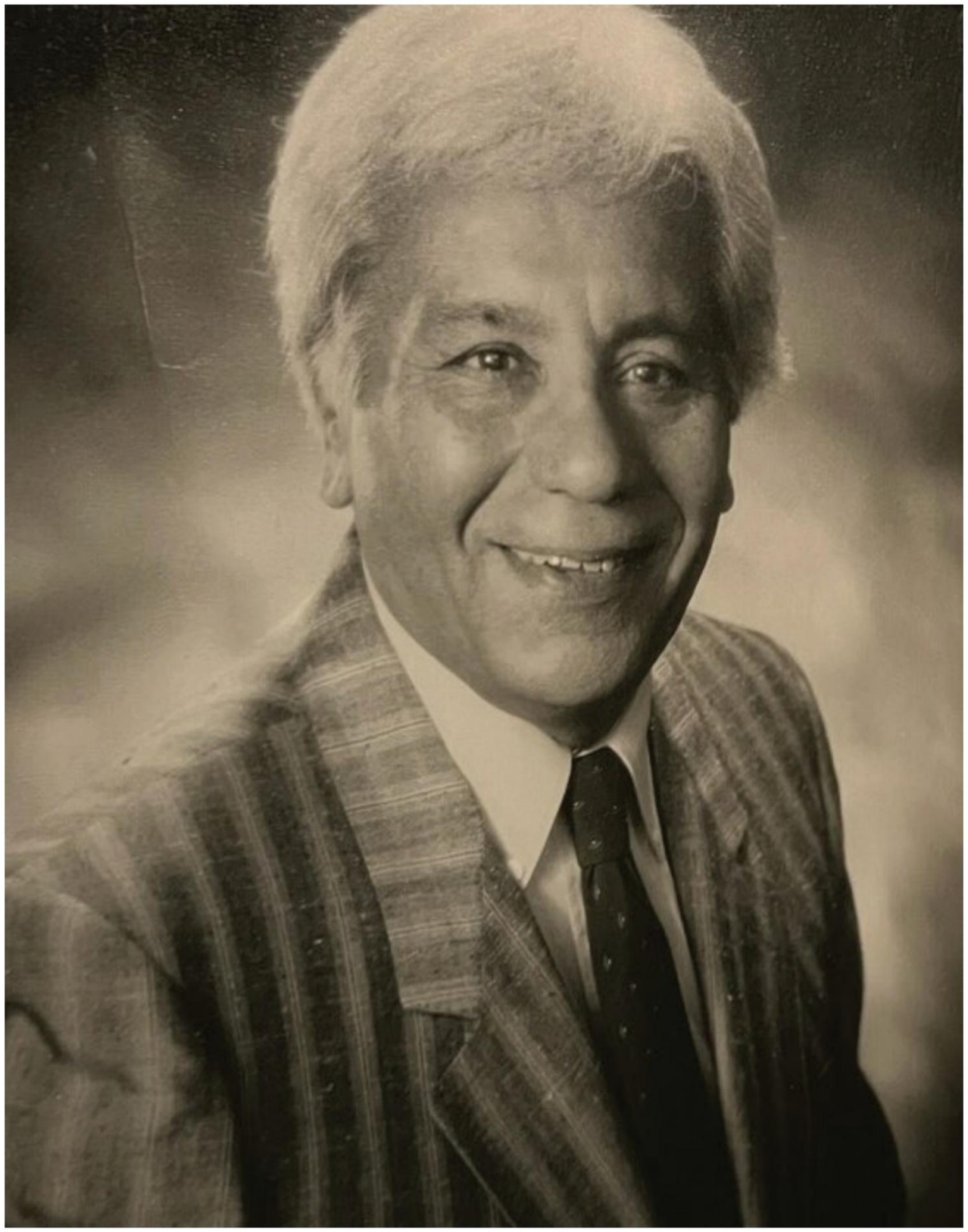
She said Gonzalez with open arms helped her learn the ropes of city government and the knowledge he passed down was a contributing factor in her climbing the political ladder to become mayor for two separate terms and La Porte County clerk for one term.

“He always gave me the time I needed to ask questions,” she said.

In addition, she remembered him for singing the popular Latin song, “LaBamba,” at the end of city council meetings sometimes and other places like Democratic Party functions.

“He sang it a lot and he was good at it. He enjoyed singing,” she said.

Gonzalez was manager and owner of Alan Furniture Mart in Michigan City when Susan Bortell first encountered him in the 1970s as a regular customer then later as credit manager of the store for nearly four years.



Bortell, a lifelong Michigan City resident, described him as bright, articulate and funny.

She also said Gonzalez treated everyone no matter what their status “with a smile, handshake or a hug. He was just a super guy.”

Bortell said she also saw him give a “stellar” performance of “La Bamba” during a campaign fund raiser when he was running for reelection as mayor.

“He did part of it in English and part of it in Spanish. He was quite the entertainer,” she said.

Gonzalez also owned the former ES Kessler Furniture store in downtown La Porte, which was operated mostly by his son, Steve, while he was mayor.

His accomplishments included development of the Thomas Rose Industrial Park and securing a state grant that made possible renovating the abandoned six story Rumely Hotel into senior citizen housing.

“He was engaged in the community in so many ways. He was enthusiastic and it was infectious with other people I think,” said Leigh Morris, mayor from 2004 to 2007.

Occasionally, Morris as president and chief executive officer of the former La Porte Hospital worked with Gonzalez on matters involving the medical facility and city.

Morris further described him as tireless in his pursuit of things he felt would benefit the city.

“I’ve known Elmo for a very long time. He was a wonderful family man and he was a very good mayor,” he said.

According to his obituary, Gonzalez born in Ft. Worth, Texas, grew up helping his grandparents with their tailoring business and found odd jobs like singing in nightclubs for money to give to his mother to help support him and his younger brother, Jackie.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor inspired him to drop out of high school and serve his country in the Navy as a radioman aboard an aircraft carrier struck by two kamikaze pilots in the Pacific.

After returning home, he headed to Indiana to work in the steel mills.

That’s where his political aspirations were born from rallying behind local candidates wanting better working conditions, according to his obituary.

His political career included a stint as president of the New Buffalo School Board, according to his obituary.

Steve Gonzalez said his father’s time on the school board was around the late ’70s and early ’80s.

Bortell said it’s difficult in words to reflect just how she truly felt about Gonzalez but what she admired most about him was his sense of decency.

“He never failed to recognize the basic human kindness in people and he reciprocated with the same kindness,” she said.

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Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
This newspaper supports your right to know.

Guests ‘Bite Into a Legend’ for Redamak’s opening day

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

After coming to Redamak’s for the past six to eight years, Mindy Greenfield was finally able to grab the coveted first-in-line spot for the restaurant’s opening day.

People formed the usual line on the front porch before the doors were flung open for the popular New Buffalo eatery’s 2024 season, which began Thursday, March 7.

“Velveeta cheese, probably” was what Greenfield said she most loves about Redamak’s cheeseburgers.

She was accompanied by her dad, Kim Ames, who opted for the Lake Perch Dinner.

“You can’t hardly get lake perch no more anywhere except here so I always have it here,” he said.

This year, James Maroney, a member of the family that owns Redamak’s, said that the Working Person’s Special, which includes fries with your burger, will be available all day Mondays and Thursdays and from noon to 3 p.m. Fridays.

New to the menu are the Buffalo Hot Breaded Chicken Sandwich, which contains a deep fried, spicy chicken breast that’s smothered in homemade Nashville Hot Sauce and the Sweet Potato Tots, which Maroney said are served with honey. Salads include a Berry Salad, with fresh blueberries and strawberries topped with Bleu Cheese served on a mix of salad greens and the Tavern Salad, which is Redamak’s version of a Chef’s Salad.

They’ve also brought back corned beef, which is featured in the Red’s Reuben.

For the younger crowd, Redamak’s

Visitors to Redamak’s line up for the first burger of the season

Members of the New Buffalo Animal Hospital hold their annual meeting at Redamak’s

Guests enjoy their meals in the dining room

Amara Mabrakis tends the bar

Kirsten Riley (left) greets the first customers of the season

The first guests of the season crowd into Redamak's

Dennis Freehling enjoys his first burger of the season

Members of the Red' Family were hard at work in the kitchen

has also opened up the game room, which has been closed since Covid, with Maroney adding that they have a brand new vendor for the state of the art games.

Having been open for 49 years, Maorney said that Redamak's now has third and fourth generation family members coming to the restaurant.

His parents, Jim and Angie, bought the restaurant in 1975 from the original owners, George and Gladys Redamak, who opened it in 1946.

"We owe it all to our employees, our product and we also want to keep in our heart Gladys and Joe Redamak, who started Redamak's, and we're thankful for the patrons, our guests - they come back year after year," Maroney said.

One person who's especially thankful for Redamak's longevity is Debra Robertson, who's marking her 43rd year of working at the restaurant.

She said that people will specifically request that she be their server the next time they come in, with some guests waiting to be seated because her section is full.

"At another table, they called me over the weekend and they said, 'Deb, we're going to be in but we're not going to be there at noon so we'll look for you at one...' You give good service and people appreciate that," she said.

Besides the customers, Robertson also said it's the Red's family that keeps her coming back.

"That's what brings employees back, too, because they're just a great family and they're family oriented and they work with us as far as if you're pregnant and you need time off or you hurt yourself - they're very understanding," she said.

Redamak's is located at 616 E. Buffalo Street in New Buffalo. Spring hours are from noon to 9 p.m. Thursday through Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday).

OBITUARIES

Jane O. McGrath nee O'Connor

1942-2024

Jane O. McGrath nee O'Connor. Age 82. New Buffalo, Michigan resident, formerly of Flossmoor and Chicago's Beverly/Mt Greenwood Neighborhood.

Graduate of St Sabina Catholic Grammar School. She attended St Xavier High School graduating from Mother McAuley High School.

Wife for 61 years of Timothy G. McGrath. Mother of John (Tammy) McGrath, Timothy G. McGrath II, Molly (James) Murphy, Terry (Cathy) McGrath, Michael (Kelly) McGrath, and Janie (David) Koehler. Grandmother of Michael, Joseph, Timothy, Natalie and Jason McGrath, Malachy, Rose and Salvatore Murphy, Adain, Jack, Ryan, Michael Ben, Ellie, Matthew (Mollee) McGrath, Henry and William Koehler. Daughter of the late Helen nee O'Grady and John H. O'Connor. Sister of Noreen (Phillip) McGee. Daughter in-law of the late Colette nee Freistroffer and George McGrath. Aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Friend of many. Jane truly never met a stranger. Her bright blue eyes and warm smile drew people to her and began many a "chat."

Resting at Panozzo Bros. Funeral Home, 530 West 14th Street (US Rt 30, 3 blks E of Western Ave), Chicago Heights on Friday March 15, 2024 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Funeral Saturday March 16, 2024 9:45 am from funeral home to St Veronica (formerly Infant Jesus of Prague Church), Flossmoor. Mass 10:30 am. Private interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Alsip.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Jane's name to The Dune's Fellowship House, 211 East 6th Street, Michigan City, IN, 46360 www.duneshouse.org/donate/ [1] would be appreciated by the McGrath family. Info 708-481-9230 and panozzobros.com.

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

Semi-trailer collapse closes highway

BY STAN MADDUX

A stretch of state highway in La Porte County was closed for an extended period after a semi-trailer fully loaded with bags of mostly top soil collapsed.

Indiana 39 was closed Tuesday, March 12, between U.S. 6 and Young Road for about four hours.

Officers after 4:30 p.m. were called after the enclosed railer hauling more than 45,000 pounds of top soil and composted manure buckled at the Canadian National Railroad crossing in the Union Mills area.

La Porte County Police Capt. Derek Allen said the driver with the middle of the trailer dragging the pavement was able to pull forward to get it off the crossing to avoid any trains that might be approaching at some point.

Initially, Allen said one lane of the state highway was closed but later the northbound and southbound lanes were closed to allow for the load to be removed from the trailer, which had its rear wheels raised in the air.

The trailer was then removed from the highway.

Indiana 39 reopened before 10 p.m.

No injuries were reported.

The driver, Gregory Noerr, 54, told investigators he just received 15 pallets of bagged top soil and one pallet of composted manure from Markman Peat Corporation at nearby Kingsbury Industrial Park.

Markman Peat Corporation is a longtime maker and distributor of soils, mulch and decorative rock to the lawn and garden industry.

According to the police report, Noerr said he was traveling southbound across the railroad tracks "when all of a sudden his trailer collapsed in half."

Police said Noerr told investigators he believed the manner in which his trailer was loaded was the primary reason for the collapse.

Allen said no official cause had been determined.

Representatives from the railroad came to assess if there was any damage to the crossing from the driver of the 2001 Mack truck pulling the trailer scraping the roadway off the tracks, police said.

Allen said a trailer collapsing is an unusual occurrence.

Normally, Allen said police are called to a semi rollover if a load inside a trailer shifts while rounding a curve too fast and the added weight on one side causes the trailer to tip over.

"I don't ever recall seeing a trailer buckle in this manner," he said.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PRE-KINDERGARTEN, KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP TAKING PLACE AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It's time to start planning for the 2024-25 school year at New Buffalo Area Schools

New Buffalo Area Schools is looking for students for the Bison Beginners Pre-Kindergarten program and kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year.

It is helpful for the district to know how many students there will be to begin planning for the 2024-2025 school year. If you believe your child will qualify for either the Bison Beginners pre-kindergarten program or for kindergarten, please contact the office at 269-469-6060 to ensure your student is on the enrollment list. You can also email the office staff at jwendel@nbas.org or rbowen@nbas.org. Please contact the office by Monday, April 8. You will need to include information such as your child's name, birth date, parent/guardian name, address, phone number and email address. The necessary paperwork/processes for completion will also be provided.

Parents/guardians that have children who will be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2024, and are residents of the New Buffalo Area School District are welcome to register their child for the Bison Beginners Pre-Kindergarten program. The program offers both half-day (a.m.) or full-day sessions. At this time, information is only being taken on students that currently reside within the school district. Enrollment is limited to 25 students for the Bison Beginners program.

Parents/guardians with students that will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2024, and are residents of the New Buffalo Area School District are welcome to register their child for the full-day kindergarten program. At this time, information is only being taken on students that currently reside within the school district.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students attending New Buffalo Elementary for the 2024-2025 school year will be able to have their mandatory hearing, vision and dental screening by the Berrien County Health Department from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, May 20, at New Buffalo Elementary.

If you need a hearing/vision/dental screening for your child who will be attending New Buffalo Elementary and you are not available May 20, please contact the Berrien County Health Department at 269-926-7121 extension 5293 to schedule an appointment or visit their website (www.berriencounty.org/634/Hearing-Vision-Screening).

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE
OF SPECIAL MEETING AND
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE VILLAGE
ZONING
ORDINANCE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, PA 110 of 2006, as amended, and the Grand Beach Village Zoning Ordinance, the Village of Grand Beach Planning Commission will hold a special meeting with a public hearing on several proposed amendments to the Village Zoning Ordinance on April 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. EST/5:00 p.m. CST at the Village Hall, 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI 49117.

At that time, the Village Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing and listen to comments about the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. The amendments proposed are to Article II, 2.02, "Definitions", including an amended definition of "Structure, Removable", "Tent", "Use, Accessory", and "Use, Temporary". These amendments seek to clarify what is a removable structure, how a tent is defined, and to add "Items defined as "Tents" are not Accessory Uses". The amendment further provides that tents are a "Temporary Use" which may not be erected for more than ten (10) days in any calendar year, with exceptions for tents used for children's recreational purposes.

The full text of the amendments can be reviewed by contacting the Village Clerk, Kimberly Wolnik, at 269-469-3141 or by email at clerk@grandbeach.org during regular business hours after the publication of this Notice, and the full text may also be examined at the hearing.

Individuals with disabilities or the need for auxiliary aids should contact the Clerk by phone or email above, or send correspondence to the Clerk at 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI 49117, not less than 5 days before the hearing.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received by the Clerk at the Village Hall by email or mail not less than 3 days prior to the public hearing in order to be included in the written materials submitted for review by the Planning Commission.

KIMBERLY WOLNIK,
VILLAGE CLERK

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH MASTER PLAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008, as amended, the Village of Grand Beach Planning Commission will be holding a rescheduled regular meeting and a public hearing to consider comments regarding the Village of Grand Beach Master Plan and approval of the Master Plan on April 26, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. EST/4:00 p.m. CST at the Village Hall, 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI 49117.

At that time, the Village Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to listen to and consider any public comments about the proposed Village of Grand Beach Master Plan.

The full text of the proposed Village of Grand Beach Master Plan can be reviewed on the Village's website grandbeach.org, or by contacting the Village Clerk, Kimberly Wolnik, at 269-469-3141 or by email at clerk@grandbeach.org during regular business hours after the publication of this Notice. The Master Plan in its entirety may also be examined at the hearing.

Individuals with disabilities or the need for auxiliary aids should contact the Clerk by phone or email above, or send correspondence to the Clerk at 48200 Perkins Blvd., Grand Beach, MI 49117, not less than 5 days before the hearing.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received by the Clerk at the Village Hall by email or mail not less than 3 days prior to the public hearing in order to be included in the written materials submitted for review by the Planning Commission.

KIMBERLY WOLNIK,
VILLAGE CLERK

HOROSCOPE

MARCH 14-20, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There is a very positive and uplifting energy coming your way but you may need to clear some skeletons out of that closet before you can really embrace a fresh vibe. Don't be afraid to get rid of cloths that don't fit, furniture that is in disrepair and people that drain your resources.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

There is a very strong social dynamic to the week ahead. Don't get pulled into other people's perceptions or definitions of what is important. Turn your attention to more humanitarian, behind the scenes type of activities. Avoid public displays for now. Keep your contributions to others private.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Traditional concepts and structures may be hard to stick with now but there is a lot to be said about sticking with procedures that are tried and true. The less complicated or diluted you make things, the easier it will be for people to meet deadlines and exceed expectation; a success for all parties.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Visualize what you want out of your situation this week. Take time to meditate and to create space where you can hear your inner voice before you go public with ideas or make any major career changes. Even though things will be picking up with your career, take time to find yourself first.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Set your sights on adventure and get your mind set on experiencing new things. Your excitement will increase your options but don't get carried away. This is not the time to get caught up in drama or powerplays. Don't waste time on attention seeking. Be true to yourself and all will benefit.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Be aware that you may not know of all the things necessary to get projects completed until you get into the thick of it. This is not the time to rush through contracts or jump into any verbal agreements. Be sure to give yourself some elbow room for last minute purchases during the initial negotiations.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Understand that there is a strong emotional undercurrent at work this week and situations on the jobsite could get a little off kilter. Be sure to keep conversations clear and concise because people will be easily confused or overwhelmed if you use any kind of slang or street terms.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

There will a dramatic component to the week ahead, as you may have to make some sort of emotional sacrifice in order to keep the peace with children or family members. Let your focus be on lifting spirits. Remain calm and positive in the face of adversity. Don't let anyone rattle you.

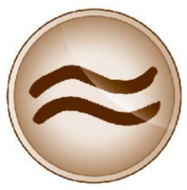
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Get ready to rock and roll, spring is here. Get ideas into gestation mode. Start nurturing the talents and creations you have inside you. Prepare for things to come to fruition. Now is the time to get your seeds and plans ready for the season ahead. Focus, visualize and let it happen.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

There will be some interesting interactions with family as you try to establish a deeper connection or approach situations differently with them. Communication is key right now so, be sure to monitor your nonverbal cues as well as, your delivery when interacting with others.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Pay close attention to all financial details this week. It will be easy to get off track with spending or lose important paperwork. Take that extra moment to check receipts and count money because mistakes will likely be made. Report any discrepancies immediately or you may take a loss.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You will be blessed with the ability to meld in any situation. This is the time to be like the fox, silent, watchful and cunning. Pay attention to what the real situation is through the nonverbal interactions. Asses who is honest by the way they hold themselves. Trust your intuition and follow it.

I'll tell you one thing, it's a cruel, cruel world. — *Danny DeVito*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		3		1			9	
6		5		7	4	2	1	
			6			7		
2	9				5	6		
		4			9			7
1	5			3		9	4	
9								
				5				
	3					1		

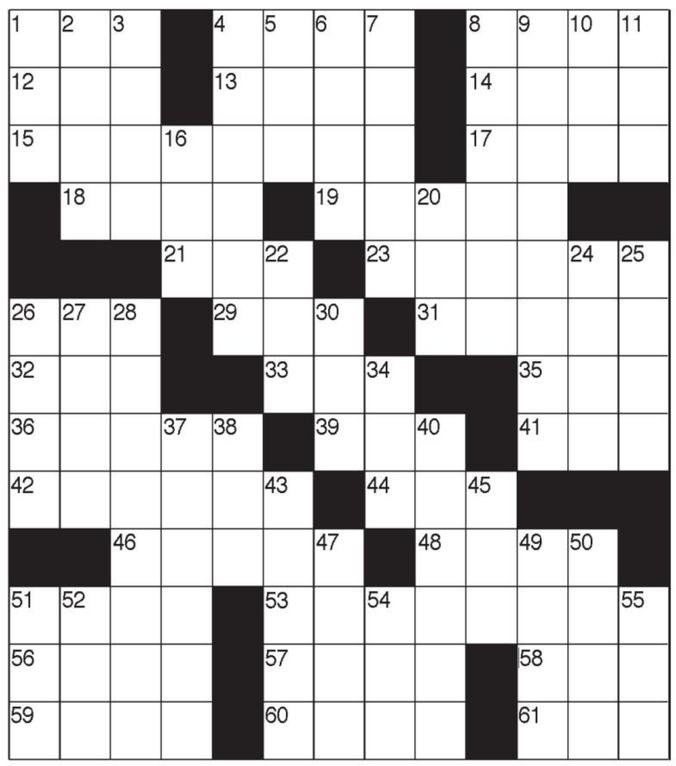
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Mass
4 Peacock blue
8 Girlfriend of Alley Oop
12 Cholesterol letters
13 Legal
14 Small Business Investment Corp. (abbr.)
15 Shaken
17 Anatomical canal
18 Serbian
19 Wild rubber
21 Canadian Expeditionary Force (abbr.)
23 Muslim sect
26 Mother of Hezekia
29 Prosecute
31 Plain moss
32 Nat'l Academy of Design (abbr.)
33 65 (Rom. numeral)
35 Dine
36 Shabby
39 Climbing vine
41 Railway Mail Service (abbr.)
42 Asp
44 Goods (abbr.)
46 Dirge
48 Counsel
51 O.T. sacred lots
53 Until (2 words)
56 Shoshonean
57 Skip
58 Amer. Ornithologists' Union (abbr.)
59 Borders
60 Circuits
61 Knight Commander of the Bath (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Greatest lower bound (abbr.)
2 Animal teeth (suf.)
3 Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (abbr.)
4 West Point freshmen
5 Small Island (Brit.)
6 Organization for European Economic Cooperation (abbr.)
7 Naked persons
8 Egyptian deity
9 Buyer
10 Fabrication
11 Height (pref.)
16 Federal Radio Commission
20 Asian gazelle
22 Having (suf.)
24 Join
25 Food
26 Korean apricot
27 Louis opponent
28 Philosophy
30 Expense (abbr.)
34 Vegetable (abbr.)
37 Moon of Mars
38 Laos aborigine
40 Huguenot leader
43 Yuccalike plant
45 Stitch
47 Rock layer beneath oceans
49 E. Indian dye tree
50 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (abbr.)
51 Ukraine (abbr.)
52 King (Fr.)
54 Monthly investment plan (abbr.)
55 Protuberance



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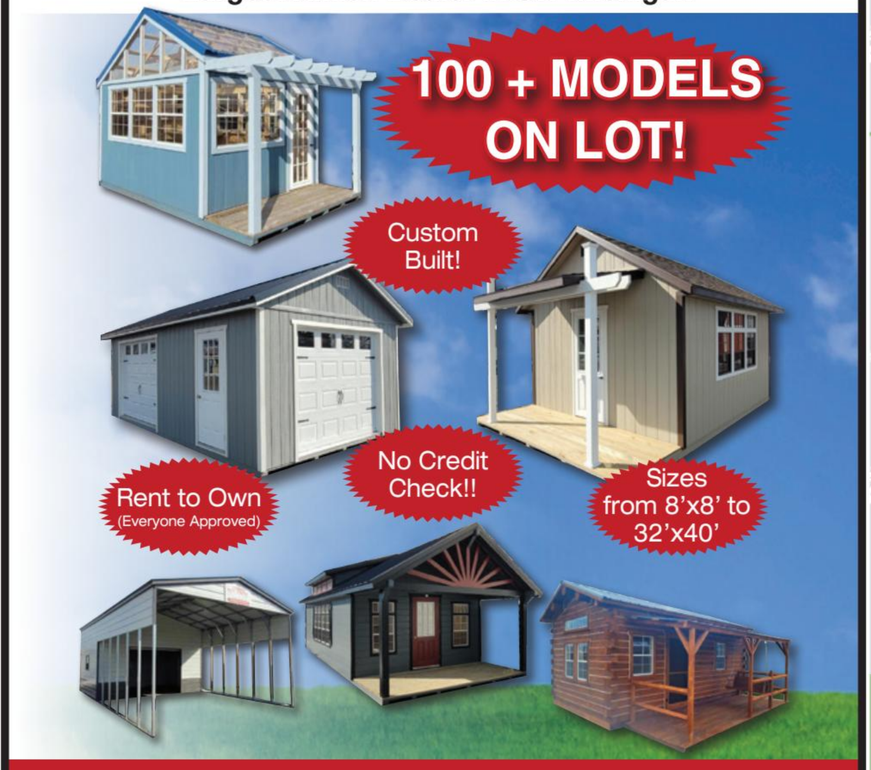

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Kroger reopens after front line attack on mice

BY STAN MADDUX

Kroger in La Porte has reopened after forced to shut its doors from ongoing mice infestation.

The La Porte County Health Department lifted its immediate shutdown order from the previous day following an extensive cleaning of the store Thursday, March 7, said Health Department Attorney Shaw Friedman.

Friedman said it appears the ongoing problem with mice was due to a lack of communication at the local management level of the store.

"It appears there was a local Kroger's manager who was not responsive to repeated requests by the health department for several months for corrective action," he said.

Once news reached the corporate level, though, Friedman said an army of people was sent in to clean and take other corrective measures.

"Once Kroger corporate offices became involved, there was immediate action taken to remedy the problem," he said.

Sue Kreamer of La Porte said she was shopping when it was announced over the store's public address system the doors were closing in 15 minutes.

"It kind of caught everybody off guard," she said.

On Jan. 8, inspection records show the health department placed Kroger on probation because of things like mouse droppings in various areas of the store on practically a monthly basis since at least April of last year.

Other repeat violations were gaps and holes in walls, providing entry for mice into the building.

According to health department records, the pest control firm ECOLAB was hired by Kroger last year to combat the problem.

ECOLAB started by placing traps in various areas of the store and returning to find dead mice in those traps in areas like the deli.

Despite the efforts of ECOLAB, which was also treating the store twice a week, the infestation persisted, health department records disclosed.

Initially, the health department became involved due to ongoing complaints from customers finding holes chewed through plastic bags containing food such as bread and bird seed.

Other complaints included a bagel in a plastic wrapper being partially "eaten into" and a hole blamed on a rodent in the plastic wrapper of a mozzarella cheese ball, according to health department records.

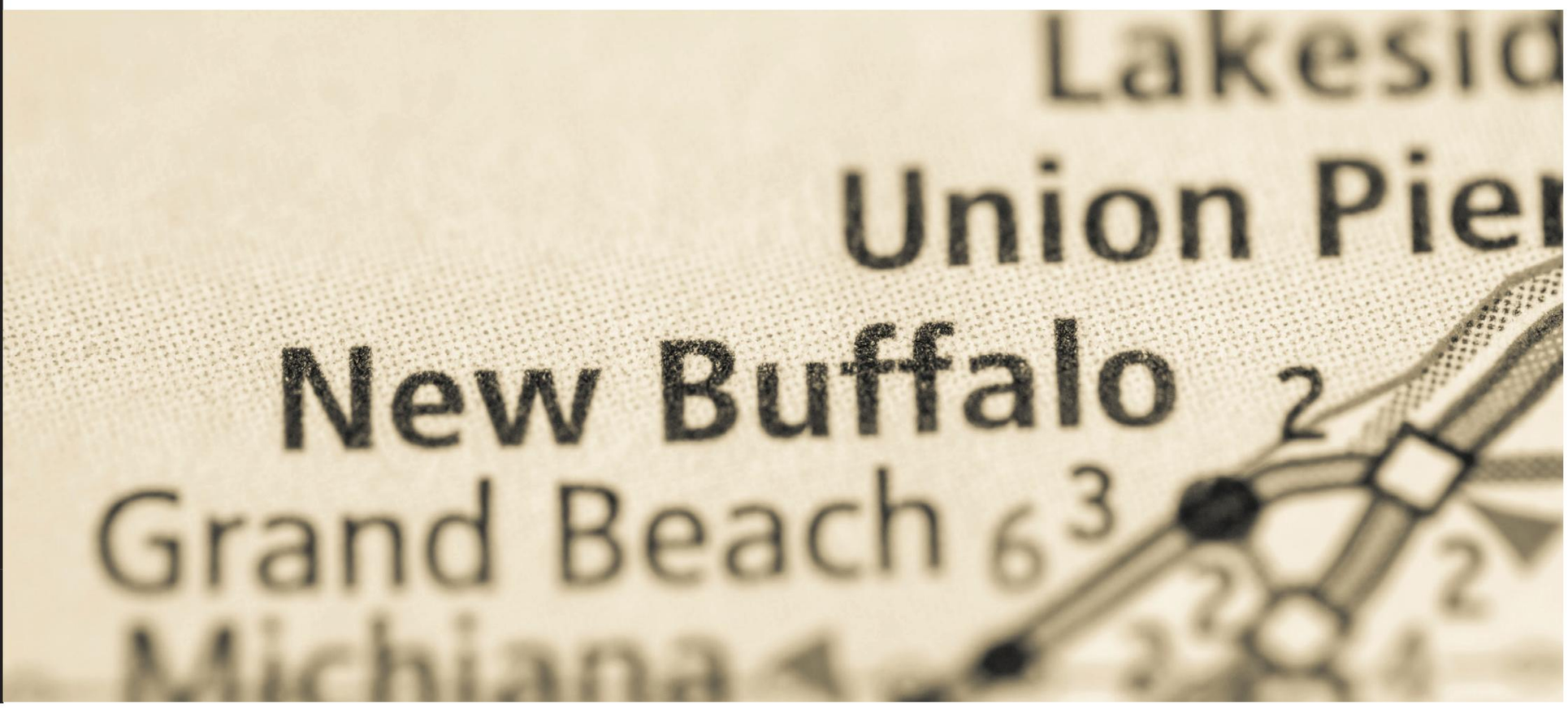
Areas where mice left droppings included the bakery and on shelves containing bags of dog food, packaged candy and boxes of organic cereal, according to health department inspection reports.

In August, the health department threatened to shut down the store if the customer complaints didn't stop.

The infestation continued, though, even after Kroger was placed on probationary status with orders to correct the violations or risk a shutdown order.

Kreamer said the store is her favorite supermarket and is glad the doors reopened quickly.

"The prices are really good. They have really good bargains and it's close to home. I've been to worse stores," she said.



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2	9	8	7	4	5	6	3	1
3	6	4	1	8	9	5	2	7
1	5	7	2	3	6	9	4	8
9	4	1	3	6	7	8	5	2
8	7	2	4	5	1	3	6	9
5	3	6	8	9	2	1	7	4

G	O	B	■	P	A	O	N	■	O	O	L	A
L	D	L	■	L	I	E	U	■	S	B	I	C
B	U	F	F	E	T	E	D	■	I	T	E	R
■	S	E	R	B	■	C	E	A	R	A	■	■
■	■	■	C	E	F	■	S	H	I	I	T	E
A	B	I	■	S	U	E	■	U	S	N	E	A
N	A	D	■	■	L	X	V	■	■	E	A	T
S	E	E	D	Y	■	P	E	A	■	R	M	S
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U	R	I	M	■	T	I	M	E	W	H	E	N
K	O	S	O	■	O	M	I	T	■	A	O	U
R	I	M	S	■	L	A	P	S	■	K	C	B

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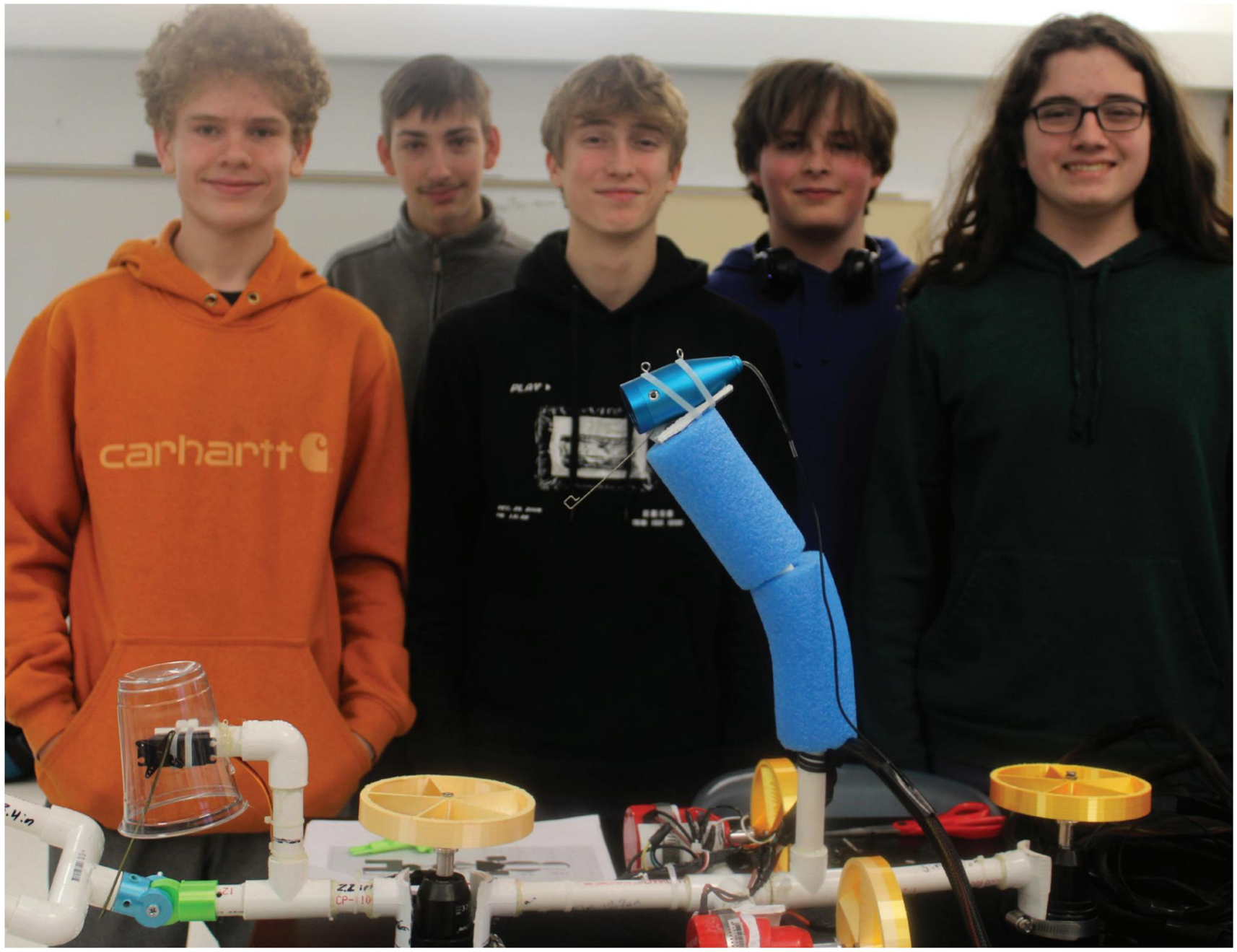
New Buffalo students explore circuits, gear up for underwater competition

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA



Students Callan Davis, Kyle Vanhook, Aaron Joseph, Jeremy Rainwater and Matthew Johnson with their submarine

Two years ago, high school science teacher Richard Eberly said that the engineering students wrote a program that had eight different functions for running a kayak, submarine or boat.

Student Wesley McGinn, though, took it a step further.

"He then went ahead and designed a circuit board and we sent the design to Taiwan and had it made and now we'll be able to install components on it to actually run the submarine and the boat and the kayak," he said.

Last May, the University of Chicago published an article about how the college had started showing students how to make circuit boards.

McGinn said that there's a circuit board called Arduino that's programmable and can have items such as motors and sensors connected to it. The board can be programmed to use these components to do certain tasks, such as to make robots.

"They started showing students how to take those circuits that are just about plugging things in - just as a prototype kind of thing - to developing how that would actually run in a professional product, like with a circuit board," he said.

Originally, the New Buffalo students were making a smart system for a kayak, which had headlights, a fan and a distance sensor in the front.

"He (Eberly) wanted his computer programming class to put all of that into a circuit that would work," he said.

Students put together the programming, with McGinn putting all of it into a single file with a menu system.

"Then, Mr. Eberly said he wanted a more permanent circuit that a wire can't come loose on or you can pull stuff out of," he said.

McGinn found an online program for creating circuit boards and having them printed.

He drew a schematic of how and where the wires would go.

"I looked into what is inside the Arduino that we added the code to, how does it work and started building it without the Arduino - I looked into how that was made and the types of processors it could use, like the capacitors that were on it and the oscillator that was on it," he said.

He started finding these individual components and putting them into a completely separate circuit board, which also had components that are needed for the kayak circuit.

While the components aren't connected to it yet, the board is sized property, so they can be soldered in.

"The original idea was for a kayak circuit but it was Mr. Eberly's idea for this to work for a bunch of different things- it has a screen on it, it has a joystick you can select stuff on the menu with - you could plug into this and reprogram it so that it will work for basically whatever components you connect," McGinn said.

McGinn's circuit board will be in a submarine that Robotics students built for one of Square One Education Network's statewide underwater competition in Charlotte this month.

Eberly said that students had to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) that can perform a number of tasks in a given amount of time in a swimming pool.

The ROV will be controlled by a student, who will not be allowed to watch the ROV.

Students came up with a design, 3-D printed models of it and then built a full size replica of a submarine.

"Then they tested it in a water tank and they had to add floats to their tether - they had to pull the 50-foot tether, they actually built the power control box and then 3-D printed the props," Eberly said.

Student Kyle Vanhook presented a video that was presented to students in the Bison Afterschool Enrichment program.

Eberly said that he and Rob Hauch, built the first prototype before teaching students how to build their ROV.

Student Callan Davis was in charge of the electrical aspects of the project as well as ensuring the submarine was waterproof.

"Each connection of two different wires - you had to solder it, cover it with a shrink wrap which, under heat, compresses around the wire, and then we had to put hot glue around the connections and tape them to make sure they were waterproof," he said.

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